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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1913

SOME PROBLEMS OF MEDICAL
EDUCATION¹

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THE education of medical students has been a subject of perennial interest to both teachers and practitioners for a long time, and although great advances have been made, there is still general dissatisfaction with the results as shown by examination tests and the ability of recent graduates to meet the emergencies or even ordinary duties of professional work.

At the meetings of the council on medical education of the American Medical Association, the confederation of examining boards of the United States and our own association, the faults in preliminary education, in professional training, and the needs of still greater clinical opportunities, have been pointed out and are familiar to you all. Out of all these discussions, two general educational remedies have been advocated.

1. That one or two years of college work, which shall include one year of chemistry, physics and biology, be added to the preliminary training.

2. That a hospital or clinical year be added, making the medical course, as measured by the standards of England and Germany, six years.

In these two propositions certain questions arise which concern this association especially. For us the questions are not merely academic, but questions of administration, standards and pedagogics.

The house of delegates of the American Medical Association at its recent meeting

¹ Presidential address, delivered before the Association of American Medical Colleges at Chicago, February 26, 1913.